



The bargaining proposal approved at the DCFA Faculty General Meeting on November 26 included the objective of incorporating Academic Freedom language into the Collective Agreement. This proposal is presented in the general meeting minutes of that date and Bargaining Bulletin #3.

All bargaining bulletins can be found at www.dcfa.ca

Please watch the following short YouTube video on Academic Governance and Freedom prepared by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvZcFBORxAE>

The Douglas College Faculty Association (DCFA) Constitution includes the following statement of purpose, “To promote, maintain, and defend independence of thought and teaching; and, to promote the welfare and professional interests of its members.” The mandate of the DCFA extends beyond the Collective Agreement and includes supporting faculty in other ways, such as in carrying out their responsibilities under academic governance.

All public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia use a bicameral system of governance whose purpose is to support and protect academic independence and freedom. Section 24 of the College and Institute Act clearly articulates the independent “power and duty” of Educational Council to set academic standards and curriculum and to develop educational policies to exercise its mandate under this section. The legislated composition of Education Council reflects the vital importance of the principle of faculty governance. This principle is also well articulated in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Statement of Government¹ which includes the rationale that faculty governance deserves the greatest weight in relation to the governing board and its administration due to faculty’s subject matter expertise and direct role in teaching and research.

There is an ongoing tug-of-war between faculty and administration over their respective rights with regard to academic governance. In this round of bargaining one of the DCFA objectives is to incorporate Academic Freedom language that will empower faculty to carry out their responsibilities under the College and Institute Act. Please see Bargaining Bulletin #4 – Academic Freedom.

Submitted by Glen Stanger
DCFA VP Negotiations
778-227-2745
stangerg@douglascollege.ca

¹ AAUP, Policy Documents and Reports, 11th edition, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015.